

Message Text

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52

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 RSR-01 /133 W

----- 103985

R 040907 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2905

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 7046

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OCON, TH

SUBJ: THAI POSITION ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. BANGKOK 4922

B. STATE 233889

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH INR DEPUTY DIRECTOR WEISS, SOMPHORN THEPSITHAR, DIRECTOR GENERAL, BUSINESS ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (MOC), SAID HIS MINISTRY HAS PROPOSED TO CABINET THAT THAI PARTICIPATE IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN THOUGH NOT A MEMBER OF GATT. HE SAID SOUTHEAST ASIAN MEMBERS OF GROUP OF 77 WILL HOLD MEETING IN JAKARTA IN JULY TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS (REF A).

2. MOC HAS RECOMMENDED THAI MEMBERSHIP IN GATT BUT SO FAR MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS OPPOSED. MOC HOPES CONVINCE CABINET, HOWEVER, TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP FOLLOWING RECENT EXAMPLE OF PHILIPPINES. HE ASKED MR. WEISS'
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ADVICE ON WHETHER TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE MTN, KNOWING ALL FORMALITIES COULD NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE SEPTEMBER. AS ALTERNATIVE COULD WAIT UNTIL LATER. WEISS SUGGESTED THAI WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION IF APPLICATION IS FILED BEFORE SESSION.

3. SOMPHORN SAID THAILAND IS CONCERNED ABOUT NON- TARIFF BARRIERS AND SUBSIDIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND WILL DISCUSS THESE ISSUES IN JAKARTA.

4. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR RECENTLY TOLD MINISTER COMMERCE PRASIT THAT PROPOSED US TRADE LEGISLATION WOULD INJURE THAILAND. SOMPHORN HAD ADVISED PRASIT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. WEISS REAFFIRMED THAT STATEMENT AND SUGGESTED COMMITTEE PRINT BY HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WITH FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED TRADE ACT AND SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS WOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO RTG IN UNDERSTANDING US POSITIONS.

5. SOMPHORN SAID MINISTER PRASIT OR HIS DEPUTY, OSOT KOSIN, WOULD HEAD THAI DELEGATION IN TOKYO. UPADIT PACHARIYANGKUN, THAI AMBASSADOR TO BERN, WILL BE DEPUTY CHIEF. SOMPHORN WILL ALSO ATTEND.

6. EMBASSY HAS ONE COPY OF COMMITTEE PRINT MENTIONED PARA 4 BUT REQUESTS ADDITIONAL 2 OR 3 COPIES TO GIVE TO RTG OFFICIALS.
UNGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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